

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 PC-01 SP-02
ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07
OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10
NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOE-15 SOE-02
HEW-04 OES-09 INT-05 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
PA-01 HA-05 PPT-01 CA-01 VO-05 SY-05 PER-01 /178 W
-----128998 081327Z /46

P R 081030Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 954

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRAZZAVILLE 1092

E.O. 1652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, AGRI, ENRG, SWEL, SCUL, TGEN, EFIN, CVIS,

MILI, UNGA, PINT, CF, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO, AUGUST 7

1. PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO ASKED TO SEE CHARGE, MORNING
AUGUST 7. YHOMBY RECEIVED CHARGE ALONE FOR FORTY MINUTES,
AND WAS MUCH MORE RELAXED AND OPEN THAN WE HAVE SEEN HIM
RECENTLY. IN FACT, CHARGE CHARACTERIZES THIS AS BEST
MEETING WITH YHOMBY TO DATE.

2. CHARGE BEGAN BY OUTLINING BILATERAL COOPERATION EXISTING
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR,
CHARGE DESCRIBED ASSISTANCE WHICH WILL BE ACCORDED IN LEKANA,
AS FOLLOW-UP TO SELF-HELP AGREEMENT SIGNED AUGUST 4.
FURTHER, THAT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WILL BE COMING DURING
LATE 1978, EARLY '79, TO CULTIVATE CORN AND PADDY RICE AT
MOSENDJO AND EWO. ADDITIONALLY, THAT THE USD 6.5 MILLION
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FORESTRY SECTOR LOAN FROM CITIBANK, GUARANTEED BY EXIM, WILL
ALLOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF CATERPILLAR EQUIPMENT.
CHARGE ALSO MENTIONED RECENT VISIT BY CARE REP
FRANKLIN, AND SOYBEAN SEEDS PRESENTED TO MINISTRY OF
RURAL ECONOMY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

3. TURNING TO MINERAL EXPLORATION, CHARGE POINTED OUT

THAT ENERGY MINISTER ADADA HAD TOLD HIM HE WAS CLOSE TO SIGNING AGREEMENTS WITH COASTAL STATES FOR POINTE-NOIRE REFINERY AND KAYES FIELD, AND WITH SUPERIOR OIL FOR ADDITIONAL OFFSHORE EXPLORATION, SUPPLEMENTING THAT BEING PERFORMED BY GETTY. CHARGE ALSO REFERRED TO RECENT GOCB CONTACT WITH WYOMING MINERAL, REGARDING URANIUM, AND SKAARUP, REGARDING, INTER ALIA, A GENERAL PETROLEUM MARKET AND PRICING STUDY.

4. ON THE HEALTH SIDE, CHARGE OBSERVED THAT USG WAS ASSISTING WITH MEASLES VACCINE, THAT HOPEFULLY WE COULD BE FURTHER FORTHCOMING IN THE HEALTH AREA, AND THAT WE WERE AWAITING WORD CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF WORKING ON TSE-TSE FLY CONTROL.

5. REGARDING OTHER AREAS, CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT "SELF-HELP" FUNDS ALSO WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO NATIONAL WOMEN'S MOVEMENT (URFC) FOR INCREASING TEXTILE PRODUCTION; THAT TWO CONGOLESE WOULD BE TRAVELLING TO THE US DURING SEPTEMBER TO PARTICIPATE ON AN ERTS PROJECT; THAT THE OPIC AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES EARLIER IS IN FULL EFFECT AND; THAT WE HOPED TO HAVE A US PROFESSOR AT NGOUABI UNIVERSITY AND A CULTURAL CENTER OPENED IN BRAZZAVILLE BEFORE LONG. LASTLY, THAT WE WERE CONTINUING TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES OF SOLAR ENERGY EXPERIMENTATION HERE, AND

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OF PRIVATE HOTEL INVESTMENT.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 PC-01 SP-02
ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRAZZAVILLE 1092

6. CHARGE THEN TURNED TO SEVERAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE
ARISEN IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THESE INCLUDE
CONGOLESE DELAYS IN ISSUING VISAS, THE IMPRISONMENT
OF AMERICANS ENTERING WITHOUT THEM, DELAY IN ISSUING
CUSTOMS APPROVALS, AND LACK OF FOLLOW-UP IN INVESTIGATING
ROBBERIES AT THE COM RESIDENCE. YHOMBY REPLIED
THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THESE MATTERS, AND SAID
HE REGRETTED THEY HAD ARISEN.

7. NEXT, CHARGE REFERRED TO QUESTION OF OFFICIAL VISITS
BY U.S. MILITARY ATTACHES ACCREDITED HERE, WHO ARE
RESIDENT IN KINSHASA (BRAZZAVILLE 828 NOTAL). YHOMBY
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD HAD TROUBLE WITH DEFENSE
MINISTER SASSOU-NGUESSO AND FOREIGN MINISTER OBENGA
ON THIS, POINTING OUT THAT OBENGA HAD NEGLECTED TO
REQUEST SASSOU'S APPROVAL PRIOR TO ACCREDITING ATTACHES
AND THAT SASSOU, ON HIS SIDE, DID NOT WISH TO ACCEPT
ATTACHES RESIDENT ELSEWHERE, ESPECIALLY AFTER HAVING
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TURNED DOWN A GDR REQUEST TO ACCREDIT TO CONGO A
MILITARY ATTACHE RESIDENT IN LUANDA. YHOMBY SAID HE
HAD PUT HIS FOOT DOWN, HOWEVER, AND THAT OUR MILITARY
ATTACHES IN KINSHASA WOULD INDEED BE RECEIVED BY GOCB
AND THEIR ACCREDITATION BE RESPECTED. AT THE
CONCLUSION OF THE TOURS OF THE THREE ATTACHES (WE DID
NOT INDICATE THAT COL. BEACH HAD LEFT AND BEEN
REPLACED), CONGOLESE WOULD INFORM US THAT THEY WISHED
TO HAVE MILITARY ATTACHES ACCREDITED HERE RESIDENT IN
BRAZZAVILLE. YHOMBY ADDED THAT WE WOULD BE RECEIVING
A NOTE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER OBENGA THIS WEEK, AND THAT
THEREAFTER, WE COULD SCHEDULE OFFICIAL CALLS HERE
FOR OUR ATTACHES.

8. YHOMBY SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO
OWANDO FOR TEN DAYS, BEGINNING SHORTLY BUT PROBABLY NOT
KEEPING HIM AWAY FROM BRAZZAVILLE DURING THE AUGUST
13-15 NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS. RUMORS CONTINUE THAT
THIS HOLIDAY MAY BE OCCASION FOR TRANSFER OF NGOUABI
TOMB TO NORTH).

9. YHOMBY ADDED THAT, PREOCCUPIED WITH CONGOLESE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION THIS FALL, BUT THAT HE HOPED TO IN 1979, AND AT THAT TIME, ALSO TO BE ABLE TO VISIT WASHINGTON.

10. CHARGE PRESENTED YHOMBY WITH AN ICA-PROVIDED BOOK ON NEW YORK AND YHOMBY WENT THROUGH IT, LITERALLY PAGE BY PAGE, COMMENTING THAT WHAT AMERICANS HAD CONSTRUCTED WAS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF HARD WORK. HE LAMENTED THAT WHILE CONGOLESE KNOW FULLY WELL WHEN PAYDAY IS, THEY DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE HOW MUCH WORK
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OUGHT TO BE PERFORMED IN RETURN FOR THEIR REMUNERATION. YHOMBY THEN SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE WAYS BY WHICH AMERICANS WERE HELPING THE CONGO. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PROBLEMS-- PRINCIPALLY, RIGID DOGMATISTS, INERTIA, AND TRIBALSI./ REGIONALISM--ARE POSED BY SOME WITHIN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND PORTIONS OF THE POPULATION ITSELF, YHOMBY CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING OPTIMISM THAT HIS POLICY OF ENCOURAGING BOTH HARD WORK AT HOME AND WIDER CONTACTS ABROAD WOULD SUCCEED.
KATZEN

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